

# Wood Hall

Bldg. 769

Wood Hall was dedicated on May 14, 1976 in honor of retired Captain Robert H. Wood, U.S. Navy, who entered naval service as an aviation cadet in 1937.



Wood became a pilot when he was 16 and he made his first solo flight in 1929. He entered the Navy following graduation from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was commissioned an ensign on Nov. 1, 1938.

During World War II, he served in the Southwest Pacific and Europe and was flying a patrol bomber at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He held a succession of command and staff positions including commanding officer of the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, and was Chief of Staff to the Chief of Naval Technical Training at the time of his retirement in 1968.

Wood was a pioneer in the development of the Ground Controlled Aircraft Approach System (GCA) for the Navy in 1943, and he piloted the first all-weather flights using the system, for which he received the Air Medal. His awards include two Air Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, two National Defense Service Medals and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Captain Wood was serving as Director of Memphis International Airport at the time of his death, on Sept. 9, 1975 in Memphis, Tennessee.

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Wood Hall houses personnel records maintenance departments, technology support and selection boards.